

## PREFACE

The *COMPILATION OF STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON MATTERS AFFECTING HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSINGS, Third Edition* makes a unique contribution to the highway-rail grade crossing safety literature.

This book represents the third edition to the 1983 original publication although the title of the second editions has been changed from RAIL-HIGHWAY grade crossings to HIGHWAY-RAIL grade crossings, the material covered is the same. The second edition, published in 1995 broadened the inquiry to include an examination of laws concerning trespassing on railroad facilities, vandalism, and the degree of local government control, if any, over private crossings.

In this Third Edition, the parameters of the examination have been expanded even further to include two additional chapters covering timely issues concerning grade crossing safety: vegetation clearance and photographic enforcement. These additional chapters reflect the increased concern among government policy makers, railroads, and state and regional transportation agencies regarding grade crossing safety as we usher in the era of the high-speed train. Also, in this edition, the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC) has been added as an appendix to serve as an additional resource and a means of comparison. The Uniform Vehicle Code was first published in 1926 and designed as a specimen set of motor vehicle laws intended to be used as a model for states to adopt. It has been updated a number of times and continues to serve as a valuable framework for the development of state legislation.

Each chapter in this book represents a different subject area and each chapter's contents are discussed in an effort to provide the reader with a brief overview of the subject matter presented. Each individual state's laws or regulations concerning the subject have been listed either verbatim, or in many instances, paraphrased for clarity and better understanding. Each subject area is addressed from a practical orientation, making it an invaluable resource for both students and practitioners.

This book also contains a quick reference page to facilitate browsing. Although, in most instances it is written in everyday language for use by laymen, the book is also intended to serve as a comprehensive legal reference and a practical tool for legislators, policymakers, and lawyers.

For the first time, this book will be made available on the World Wide Web along with a mechanism to allow the individual states to record changes and/or updates in their law. A form is included on the web site to allow changes or updates to be made on the form only and then submitted the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety where the updates will be made to the text and made available both in hard copy updates as well as on the Web.

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